

Day Use for Mount Whitney Zone ~ Updated August 11, 2011

The number on each calendar date is how many people could be reserved at the time this update was published. Canceled space will be added back onto these pages.

Large groups can not exceed 15 people.

Scroll to the bottom for more information about Mt Whitney permits and reservations.

Be Bear Alert at Whitney Portal, there is lots of bear activity!

Day hikers should be prepared for extreme conditions. A weather forecast for chance of thundershowers usually means wind, rain, sleet & hail in the upper elevations.

**Is the trail clear of snow? Almost ! 2011 was a record snow year.
More rocks are exposed now as the snow melts.
Use caution and good judgment while crossing the remaining patches of ice and snow.**

July~ Thunderstorms and lightning are a significant hazard until September.
At the first sign of lightning, leave the summit area or exposed ridge tops.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					37	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	25	59	51	52	29	31
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7	18	30	33	27	11	FULL
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	16	28	17	19	29	FULL
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5	12	7	24	9	13	1
31						
9						

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August ~ "Wilderness is not only a condition of nature, but a state of mind and mood and heart."

~ Ansel Adams.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	28	4	24	15	7	1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FULL	FULL	23	24	FULL	4	FULL
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	1
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL
28	29	30	31			
1	FULL	FULL	FULL			

September ~ Late September and October expect shorter days, cold temperatures
and possible winter snow storms.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				FULL	FULL	FULL
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL
25	26	27	28	29	30	
FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	

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October ~ First snowfall of the fall season was: ~#~ Snow on October 3, 2010 ~#~ Snow on October 13, 2009 ~#~ Snow on October 4, 2008 ~#~ Snow on September 20, 2007 ~#~ Snow on October 3, 2006~#~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 FULL
2 FULL	3 5	4 83	5 86	6 90	7 65	8 FULL
9 26	10 99	11 99	12 95	13 97	14 96	15 89
16 96	17 96	18 100	19 100	20 100	21 100	22 88
23 96	24 99	25 100	26 100	27 100	28 98	29 100
30 100	31 100	Nov 1 100				

When will the trail be clear of snow? Winter mountaineering skills, experience and equipment are essential for a safe excursion when ice and snow are on the Mt. Whitney Trail.

- Expect the switchbacks above Trail Camp to be covered by snow and ice through the end of June or early July. This area can be very hazardous when there is ice or snow.
- Snow may cover the trail again in late September or October.

Can I reserve a permit for **Mt. Whitney Day Use** or **Mt. Whitney Trail Overnight** trips?

If you missed the February Lottery....Most of the dates for the summer are full. Any space from cancelations will be re published onto the calendar above.

- **If space is available for the date you want to start on the trail**, reservations can be made up until 2 days before the trip. Call (760)873-2483
- **One day before the trip, Walk In Permits** are available for any unused or canceled space. Walk-in permits must be requested in person at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center.
- **If you will start somewhere else**, and end the trip at Mt. Whitney, different rules and quotas will apply. Your entry point will determine the type of permit you will need; you may need to include "Exit quota for Trail Crest".

Is all the space reserved? July, August and most of September was reserved during the February lottery.

Space is not saved for walk-in permits; however, it is common to have openings from cancelations a few days before the trip date. **Canceled space will be re-published onto the calendar above.**

The number in each calendar date is how many people could reserve for that date.

Where do I pick up the permit? All Mt. Whitney Wilderness Permits must be picked up at:

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center, phone (760) 876-6200
located at the junction of Highway 395 and SR 136.

Self issue permit forms are available from November 2nd to April 30th.

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How do I make a reservation? On-line reservation software is in development for the **2012** season. Look for more information in the fall of 2011 for reservation system changes.

Trips in 2011 will continue making reservations by contacting the Inyo National Forest staff at the Wilderness Permit Office.

**Inyo National Forest
Wilderness Permit Office
351 Pacu Lane Suite 200**

**Wilderness Permit Phone Line (760) 873-2483
Fax Line (760) 873-2484**

Bishop, CA 93514 ~ Open ~ 8am-4:30pm, 7 days a week, from May 15 to October 15.

Winter season ~ Closed weekends and holidays.

Wilderness permits are required year-round for all visitors entering the Mt Whitney Zone. Reservations can only be made for trips that begin during the quota period, from May 1 through November 1.

Day Use Permit: If the entire trip will be on one calendar date and you will enter the Mt. Whitney Zone, a Day Use permit is required. Day Use includes all routes (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face/Buttress routes, Mt Russell). No consecutive day use, if trip is more than one calendar date an Overnight permit is required.

Overnight permit (or multi-night): Trips lasting one night or more that start on the Mt. Whitney trail require an Overnight permit. This includes trips that will end elsewhere (i.e. Pacific Crest and John Muir trails). Day permit can not be used as part of an overnight trip to pass through the area. Overnight use does not include all routes. Entry via North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is NOT in lottery (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face /Buttress, Mt. Russell), can be reserved 6 months in advance.

Group Size: You are limited to the number of people indicated in your group size. The maximum group size is 15 people. Large groups can not exceed 15 people even if on separate permits.

Entry Date: is the day you will begin walking from the trailhead. All of your group must start on the entry date listed on your permit. Your permit will not be valid if you miss your entry date. Do not include extra days you are staying at Whitney Portal before you start on the trail.

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